

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 12 to 18, 21 to 24, and 58 to 62 are pending in the application, of which claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,084,740 (Leonhardt). As shown above, Applicants have amended claim 1 to define the invention with greater clarity. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 defines a method for producing, on a magnetic tape having a magnetic recording side and a non-recording side opposite the recording side, a plurality of servo tracks capable of being optically detected independently from one another. The method includes passing at least a portion of the magnetic tape through a work area and forming the servo tracks and non-servo tracks on a surface of the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area. The servo tracks are grouped in bands, each comprised of plural servo tracks. Each of the bands is delimited by at least one non-servo track at upper and lower portions thereof. Each of the bands corresponds to a data track on the magnetic recording side. The bands are separated from one another by a first distance and servo tracks in the bands are separated from one another by a second distance, where the first distance is greater than the second distance. Arranging the servo tracks as bands having this configuration provides increased servo accuracy for each data track.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, particularly with respect to forming bands, comprised of plural servo tracks, that correspond to respective data tracks on the magnetic recording side, the bands being separated from one

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another by a first distance and servo tracks in the bands being separated from one another by a second distance, where the first distance is greater than the second distance.

Leonhardt describes forming magnetic data on a front side of a tape and servo tracks on a back side of the tape. Leonhardt also describes forming "a plurality of servo tracks written on the tape recording surface, interspersed with the tracks of data" (column 1, lines 21 to 23 of Leonhardt). It was said on the Office Action that the combination of these two features renders claim 1 obvious. More specifically, it was said that the tracks of data bound the servo tracks inherently forming bands of servo tracks and that it would have been obvious to form such bands on the non-recording side of the tape. Applicants respectfully disagree.

More specifically, Applicants do not read column 1 of Leonhardt as describing bands that are "comprised of plural servo tracks", as are the bands of claim 1. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that Leonhardt discloses or suggests the bands of servo tracks as in claim 1.

Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify that each band, comprised of plural servo tracks, corresponds to a data track and is separated from other bands by a distance that is greater than the separation of individual servo tracks within the band. Applicants find no mention whatsoever in Leonhardt of anything that suggests this configuration. That is, even if the servo tracks on the recording side of the tape could be construed as bands, there is nothing in Leonhardt to suggest that such bands correspond to a data track, much less that the bands themselves are separated by a different amount than individual servo tracks within the bands.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Leonhardt.

Regarding the dependent claims, Applicants find no mention in Leonhardt that "each of the servo tracks comprises a plurality of discrete optically independently detectable

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longitudinally spaced marks" (claim 3). In fact, Fig. 2 of Leonhardt shows that the servo information is continuous, not discrete. In this regard, each of the dependent claims defines patentable features and individual consideration thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

No fees are believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees are due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to Peter J. Devlin at the address shown below. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to the undersigned

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

--1. (Amended) A method for producing, on a magnetic tape having a magnetic recording side and a non-recording side opposite the recording side, a plurality of servo tracks capable of being optically detected independently from one another, the method comprising passing at least a portion of the magnetic tape through a work area; and forming the servo tracks and non-servo tracks on a surface of the non-recording side of the portion of the magnetic tape as the tape passes through the work area, the servo tracks being grouped in bands, each comprised of plural servo tracks, each of the bands being delimited by at least one non-servo track at upper and lower portions thereof, each of the bands corresponding to a data track on the magnetic recording side, the bands being separated from one another by a first distance and servo tracks in the bands being separated from one another by a second distance, the first distance being greater than the second distance.--